

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ADP-00 EB-05 RSC-01 /017 R

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COM/ BIC/ OED/ MEPD/ JMSANDS, DIR.

COM/ BIC/ OIM/ GPOLLARD(INFO)

STATE/ ARPU/ WSTEDMAN(INFO)

ARA/ BA- MR. T. TONKIN

----- 066087

R 152226 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 048220

FROM: COMMERCE/ MEPD

SUBJ: SALTO GRANDE

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1558

1. IDB HAS ALREADY APPROVED A SHORT LIST OF CONSULTANTS ELIGIBLE TO BID ON SALTO GRANDE, WHICH INCLUDED MAIN; BUT IN THIS INSTANCE, ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE, THEY ARE NOT READY TO PASS JUDGMENT ON WHETHER THE CTM METHOD OF SELECTION IS ACCEPTABLE. THEY APPEAR TO BE AWAITING:

(A) OUTCOME OF MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS' REQUEST TO MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS TO REVIEW LEGALITY AND APPROPRIATENESS OF CTM' S METHOD OF SELECTION; AND

(B) A FORMAL REQUEST FROM CTM TO APPROVE A CHOSEN DESIGN ENGINEERING CONTRACT (WHILE CTM APPEARS TO BE AWAITING IDB' S ADVANCE BLESSING FOR CHOSING MAIN).

2. WE FULLY AGREE THE CANADIANS, AS WE PROJECTED, ARE EXTREMELY UPSET AND UNDERSTAND THE ARGENTINE AND URUGUAYAN EMBASSIES IN OTTAWA HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY SO NOTIFIED. ALSO FULLY AGREE MAIN APPROACH AT CALMING PASSIONS THROUGH THEIR ASSOCIATE BARLETTA AND THE CAMARA DE CONSULTORES IS A GOOD, LOW KEY APPROACH.

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EM WHAT IS EMBASSY' S ASSESSMENT OF EFFECT OF ELECTION ON THIS
CONTRACT AWARD? CAN A LONG DELAY IN A DECISION BE EXPECTED?
GDS. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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